



MEDI-CAL COUNTY PROGRAM
MONTHLY AVERAGES
FISCAL YEAR 1998-99

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ABSTRACT

Summary of average monthly Medi-Cal program data, eligibles as a percent of the county population, rates of users per 100 eligibles, and cost per user for each county.

INTRODUCTION

Utilization and provider payments for Medi-Cal services vary from county to county. This report updates prior reports and offers county data for Fiscal Year 1998-99.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Table 1

Statewide, an average of 5,013,153 persons were eligible for Medi-Cal each month of Fiscal Year (FY) 1998-99.

In FY 1998-99, the Medi-Cal population reflected 14.8 percent of California's total population.

The percentage of the population eligible for Medi-Cal varies sharply from county to county. In Yuba County, 28.0 percent of the population was eligible while in Marin County, only 4.7 percent was eligible.

In most of the counties (43 of the 58), at least one person out of ten was eligible for Medi-Cal during FY 1998-99.

In Los Angeles County, 1,781,606 persons were eligible for Medi-Cal each month. This was 18.3 percent of the county's population. Los Angeles County accounted for 35.5 percent of the Statewide Medi-Cal population.

Over half of the total Medi-Cal population was located in only for counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Santa Clara.

Table 2

County Organized Health Systems (COHS) counties are not included in this table due to incomplete data.

Statewide, the percentage of persons who were eligible for regular Medi-Cal who actually used a covered service averaged 44.7 percent in FY 1998-99.

Forty-seven California counties had user rates of 50.0 percent or more in FY 1998-99.

Alpine County, whose eligible population averaged 204 persons per month, had the lowest user rate, 32.4 percent.

Statewide, the average cost per user was \$466.57. Sierra County's cost per user of \$923.69 was the highest and the lowest cost per user was Alpine County's \$251.26.

In eleven counties, the cost per user rates ran 25 percent or more below the Statewide average. Four counties had rates 25 percent or more above the Statewide average.

Various factors may influence the average cost per user in a county. One factor is the relative proportion of users receiving the more costly services, such as state hospital services; acute care hospital inpatient services, or long-term care.

DATA QUALIFICATIONS

Figures in this report do not represent the official budget figures for medical and related expenditures.

Expenditures in this report represent cash flow payments for medical care. Included are provider payments made through Delta Dental, state hospitals, and the major fiscal intermediary, Electronic Data Systems.

Excluded for this report are Medi-Cal payments for Early Periodic Screening, Short Doyle/Medi-Cal, Medicare Buy-In, per capita payments for managed care plan coverage, audit recovery monies, refunds and administrative expenses.

County Organized Health Systems (COHS) are Medi-Cal pilot projects that are prepaid on a capitated at-risk basis. The first COHS went into effect June 1, 1983 in Monterey County and remained in effect through February 1985. A second was effective September 1, 1983 in Santa Barbara County. The Health Plan of San Mateo was effective December 1, 1987. The Partnership HealthPlan - Solano County was effective May 1, 1994 (formerly the Solano Partnership Health Plan). Orange County Organized Health System (CalOPTIMA) was effective October 1, 1995. Santa Cruz County Health Options was effective January 1, 1996. The Partnership Health Plan - Napa County was effective March 1, 1998.

Authorization and payment for most health care services are handled by the COHS for all Medi-Cal eligibles in the respective county. Certain services continue to be handled by other agencies, including dental services, which are handled by Delta Dental (DD) for all counties. The Statewide COHS enrollment averaged 365,018 persons per month during FY 1998-99.

It should be noted that utilization and cost data for Medi-Cal Health Care Plan (HCP) enrollees are not available and are excluded in Table 2. The Statewide HCP enrollment averaged 2,005,279 persons per month during FY 1998-99.

A Geographic Managed Care (GMC) pilot project began April 1, 1994. Utilization and payment data reported in Table 2 for Sacramento County reflect only claims processed through the State's fiscal intermediaries (EDS and DD) and claims for state hospital services.

The lower figures for eligibles reported in Table 2 as compared to Table 1 reflect the exclusion of Managed Care Plans. The seven COHS counties are excluded entirely.

TABLE 1
COUNTY POPULATION, MEDI-CAL ELIGIBLES
AND MEDI-CAL ELIGIBLES AS A PERCENT OF THE POPULATION
FISCAL YEAR 1998-99

COUNTY	JANUARY 1, 1999 POPULATION	MEDI-CAL ELIGIBLES/1/ (INCLUDING MANAGED CARE PLANS)	ELIGIBLES PER 100 POPULATION
STATEWIDE	33,773,000	5,013,153	14.8
Alameda	1,433,300	189,855	13.2
Alpine	1,190	204	17.1
Amador	34,050	2,651	7.8
Butte	201,900	41,750	20.7
Calaveras	38,150	5,028	13.2
Colusa	18,550	3,382	18.2
Contra Costa	916,400	88,388	9.6
Del Norte	28,100	6,413	22.8
El Dorado	150,800	11,211	7.4
Fresno	793,800	200,021	25.2
Glenn	26,950	5,167	19.2
Humboldt	128,100	22,855	17.8
Imperial	142,700	39,355	27.6
Inyo	18,250	2,600	14.2
Kern	648,400	140,456	21.7
Kings	128,300	22,589	17.6
Lake	55,300	13,187	23.8
Lassen	34,050	4,672	13.7
Los Angeles	9,757,500	1,781,606	18.3
Madera	115,800	27,061	23.4
Marin	247,900	11,622	4.7
Mariposa	16,100	2,101	13.0
Mendocino	87,100	16,625	19.1
Merced	206,900	53,793	26.0
Modoc	9,925	2,204	22.2
Mono	10,800	794	7.4
Monterey	391,300	53,769	13.7
Napa	124,600	9,566	7.7
Nevada	89,600	6,699	7.5
Orange	2,775,600	243,910	8.8
Placer	225,900	16,710	7.4
Plumas	20,450	2,682	13.1
Riverside	1,473,300	201,079	13.6
Sacramento	1,177,800	236,767	20.1
San Benito	47,850	5,601	11.7
San Bernardino	1,654,000	275,361	16.6
San Diego	2,853,300	311,600	10.9
San Francisco	790,500	106,947	13.5
San Joaquin	554,400	114,369	20.6
San Luis Obispo	241,600	21,674	9.0
San Mateo	722,800	43,675	6.0
Santa Barbara	409,000	43,388	10.6
Santa Clara	1,715,400	155,605	9.1
Santa Cruz	252,800	23,119	9.1
Shasta	165,400	33,460	20.2
Sierra	3,220	364	11.3
Siskiyou	44,350	8,480	19.1
Solano	390,100	43,456	11.1
Sonoma	443,700	36,164	8.2
Stanislaus	433,000	83,990	19.4
Sutter	76,700	14,075	18.4
Tehama	55,700	11,027	19.8
Trinity	13,200	2,398	18.2
Tulare	363,300	99,270	27.3
Tuolumne	53,100	6,526	12.3
Ventura	742,000	66,840	9.0
Yolo	158,800	22,086	13.9
Yuba	60,400	16,906	28.0

/1/ Average Monthly Eligibles.

Note: Includes regular Fee-For-Service and Managed Care Plans.

Figures are rounded independently and may not add to totals.

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Population of California Counties,
May 1999.

State of California, Department of Health Services, MEDSSUM File, October 1999.

TABLE 2
MEDI-CAL PROGRAM
AVERAGE MONTHLY ELIGIBLES, USERS, PROVIDER PAYMENTS,
USERS PER 100 ELIGIBLES, AND COST PER USER BY COUNTY
FISCAL YEAR 1998-99

COUNTY	AVERAGE MONTHLY ELIGIBLES/1/	AVERAGE MONTHLY USERS/1/	AVERAGE MONTHLY PROVIDER PAYMENTS/1/	USERS PER 100 ELIGIBLES/1/	COST PER USER/1/
TOTAL	3,780,279	1,688,707	\$787,900,816	44.7	\$ 466.57
Alameda	86,674	59,346	32,595,697	68.5	549.25
Alpine	204	66	16,583	32.4	251.26
Amador	2,651	1,557	650,751	58.7	417.95
Butte	41,750	22,858	8,327,976	54.7	364.34
Calaveras	5,028	2,681	845,943	53.3	315.53
Colusa	3,382	1,800	634,495	53.2	352.50
Contra Costa	42,002	26,739	13,695,100	63.7	512.18
Del Norte	6,413	3,651	1,265,013	56.9	346.48
El Dorado	11,211	5,661	2,203,694	50.5	389.28
Fresno	79,961	61,334	23,228,593	76.7	378.72
Glenn	5,167	2,698	946,793	52.2	350.92
Humboldt	22,855	13,264	5,103,955	58.0	384.80
Imperial	39,355	19,839	6,185,527	50.4	311.79
Inyo	2,600	1,344	648,868	51.7	482.79
Kern	63,612	40,869	16,738,041	64.2	409.55
Kings	22,589	12,876	4,074,038	57.0	316.41
Lake	13,187	7,881	2,844,213	59.8	360.89
Lassen	4,672	2,549	903,250	54.6	354.35
Los Angeles	812,858	584,323	305,561,689	71.9	522.93
Madera	27,061	13,785	4,180,601	50.9	303.27
Marin	11,360	6,299	3,352,539	55.4	532.23
Mariposa	2,101	1,202	509,211	57.2	423.64
Mendocino	16,625	9,495	3,552,626	57.1	374.16
Merced	53,793	26,184	7,270,947	48.7	277.69
Modoc	2,204	1,247	558,135	56.6	447.58
Mono	794	343	130,942	43.2	381.76
Monterey	53,769	25,540	9,956,284	47.5	389.83
Nevada	6,699	3,879	1,888,514	57.9	486.86
Placer	16,710	8,746	3,991,412	52.3	456.37
Plumas	2,682	1,669	863,276	62.2	517.24
Riverside	131,879	76,601	32,896,052	58.1	429.45
Sacramento/2/	83,249	54,479	24,007,960	65.4	440.68
San Benito	5,601	2,726	1,061,959	48.7	389.57
San Bernardino	174,051	104,801	46,352,075	60.2	442.29
San Diego	170,192	119,096	57,162,709	70.0	479.97
San Francisco	70,330	50,401	29,868,270	71.7	592.61
San Joaquin	47,835	34,269	14,894,320	71.6	434.63
San Luis Obispo	21,674	12,169	4,775,980	56.1	392.47
Santa Clara	86,038	54,900	33,108,430	63.8	603.07
Shasta	33,460	19,387	7,731,990	57.9	398.82
Sierra	364	217	200,440	59.6	923.69
Siskiyou	8,480	4,688	1,511,746	55.3	322.47
Sonoma	35,514	19,296	17,331,823	54.3	898.21
Stanislaus	39,753	28,350	11,904,103	71.3	419.90
Sutter	14,075	7,986	2,815,971	56.7	352.61
Tehama	11,027	6,152	2,335,744	55.8	379.67
Trinity	2,398	1,360	523,854	56.7	385.19
Tulare	92,665	51,243	22,854,780	55.3	446.01
Tuolumne	6,526	4,106	1,587,228	62.9	386.56
Ventura	66,840	36,011	14,153,808	53.9	393.04
Yolo	21,934	11,251	3,627,438	51.3	322.41
Yuba	16,906	8,701	2,754,642	51.5	316.59
Not Reported	0	10,793	3,620,512	0.0	335.45

/1/ County Organized Health Systems (COHS) counties are not included in this table due to incomplete data.

Excludes Managed Care Plans.

/2/ Availability of data is limited for Sacramento County.

Most Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) eligibles are covered by Geographic Managed Care (GMC).

Note: Includes regular Fee-For-Service.

Averages are rounded independently and may not add to totals.

Source: State of California, Department of Health Services, Month of Payment Index Files, Fiscal Year 1998-99,